



City of Gaithersburg

31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

DRAFT

Mayor and City Council Work Session Minutes City Hall - Council Chambers Monday, May 13, 2013

A Mayor and City Council Work Session was called to order with Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Staff present: City Manager Tomasello, City Attorney Board, Director of Public Works Arnoult, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Potter, Director of Planning & Code Administration Schlichting, Recreation & Park Services Division Chief McGuire, Engineering Services Director Mumpower, Public Works Operations Administrator Newhart, Lead Long Range Planner Robinson, Public Works Operations Superintendent Scafide, and Community Planning Director Schwarz.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. MidCounty Corridor Study: A Presentation from Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation

Staff provided a brief summary and then introduced Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation and Bruce Johnston, Chief, Division of Transportation Engineering. Mr. Johnston provided a full presentation of the Mid County Corridor Study including the project's history, a discussion of the six Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS), and next steps. Following the presentation, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Johnston further spoke of the various ARDS impacts to the City and the importance and need for the subject project. Council reiterated its objection to Alternatives 5 and 8 which direct traffic unto MD 355. Council stated Alternative 9 was the least objectionable of the City impacting options; however, should Alternative 9 be chosen, the County should include means of mitigation for the impacts to Blohm Park into the scope of work. The County stated the City would be informed once a public hearing date on the Draft Study was established. Council directed staff to submit formal comments on the Study and stated they would consider providing testimony as part of the public hearing.

B. Briefing from the Constitution Gardens Ad Hoc Improvement Committee

Public Works Operations Administrator Newhart introduced two members of the Constitution Gardens Ad Hoc Committee, Deanna Holford and Dawn Studniarz. The members presented the findings and recommendations associated with planning and repurposing of Constitution Gardens. The briefing included the history of the Park, examination of issues and concerns associated with the site along with a series of recommendations to revitalize the property. Future

considerations for the Park include relocation of the gazebo, a complete inventory and analysis of the existing shrubs and plants, components which support educational and green initiatives, improved signage and entry features, artwork, and redesign of the internal pedestrian flow. The desired outcome is a revival of the Park to ensure it is safe, secure, inviting and has features that promote an invitation for all ages to enjoy. Public Works Operations Superintendent Scafide reported the funding for design (\$50,000) and construction (\$500,000) is recommended in the FY'14 and FY'15 City budgets respectively.

Landscape Architect David Post, members of the Committee who were present (Dawn Studniarz, Deanna Holford, Joseph & Barbara Tolker, Kris Pavlovic, Eydie Searles, Jenny Gregory), and staff were thanked for their presentation and were informed to proceed with design following adoption of the Budget.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. From Staff - None to Date
- B. From Outside

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Potter, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
John Schlichting, Director of Planning & Code Administration